

Production No. 8F23

The Simpsons

"Brother, Can You Spare Two Dimes?"

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REVISED TABLE DRAFT

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"BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE TWO DIMES?"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
HERB.....DANNY DEVITO
GEORGE FOREMAN.....HIMSELF
BURNS.....HARRY SHEARER
SMITHERS.....HARRY SHEARER
MOE.....HANK AZARIA
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
CARL.....DAN CASTELLANETA
LENNY.....HARRY SHEARER
FLANDERS.....HARRY SHEARER
TODD FLANDERS.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
KENT BROCKMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
PROFESSOR FRINK.....HANK AZARIA
WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE.DAN CASTELLANETA
BUM.....HARRY SHEARER
WOMAN (ON TV).....JULIE KAVNER
WOMAN.....YEARDLEY SMITH
FEMALE ANNOUNCER.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER.....HARRY SHEARER

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NBC ANCHORMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
BUM #2.....DAN CASTELLANETA
DOCTOR.....HANK AZARIA
LAWYER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MOTHER.....JULIE KAVNER
MOM.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
MAN.....HANK AZARIA
SALESMAN.....HANK AZARIA
JITTERY PRIVATE.....DAN CASTELLANETA
ANGRY SERGEANT.....HANK AZARIA

"BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE TWO DIMES?"

by

John Swartzwelder

ACT ONE

Scene 1

FADE IN:

EXT. HOBO JUNGLE

A bunch of BUMS are gathered around a large rusty cookpot. Many of them look like bums we've seen in movies or on TV, including Red Skelton's "Freddie the Freeloader," William Powell's character in "My Man Godfrey," and Charlie Chaplin's beloved "Little Tramp." HERB POWELL, Homer's half-brother, sits with them. He also is dressed like a bum.

BUM

I used to be rich. I owned "Mickey Mouse Massage Parlors". Then those Disney bastards shut me down. I said, "Look, I'll change the logo, put Mickey's pants back on". Some guys you just can't reason with.

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

I wrote many of your favorite songs.
(DARKLY) But I got shafted by the record company.

HERB

Which songs did you write?

Scene 1 cont'd

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

All your favorites. "My Hat's Too
Big For Me," "The Dentist Song,"
"Lord How I Hate A Small Town, "
"Let's Hear It For October Ninth..."

HERB

I don't remember that one.

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

(SINGING) "The Third of May
Is just another day, (SPOKEN)
Something, something, something
April twenty-fourth,
(SINGING) But the best day of all,
Is right around the start of fall,
Let's hear it for October Ninth...
(SCREAMS IN PAIN)"

An empty sardine can hits the William Powell Lookalike in the head.

HERB

Well, I used to own a successful car
company. (CONSPIRATORIALLY) My
strategy was giving them Japanese
names. You guys ever drive a Tempura
Hatchback?

The other bums MURMUR and AD LIB "I got hit by one of those," etc.

HERB

Scene 1 cont'd

Yeah, life was sweet. (BITTER) Then
I found out I had a long lost
brother.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE
TO:

EXT. HERB'S ESTATE

Scene 2

We see the moment in "Brother Where Art Thou?" when Herb's
car window comes down and Herb and HOMER see each other for
the first time.

HOMER

Herb!

HERB

Homer!

They embrace.

HERB (V.O.)

I let him design a car that would
make or break my company.

INT. POWELL MOTORS SHOWROOM

We see the unveiling of Homer's car.

FEMALE ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Presenting...The Homer!

Herb falls to his knees and puts his hands over his face.

HERB

I'm ruined!

DISSOLVE TO:

A Forbes magazine cover of Herb and "The Homer."

Scene 2 cont'd

HERB (V.O.)

Forbes Magazine called it the
"Blunder of the Century." A little
early, don't you think? We've still
got eight years left.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE
BACK TO:

EXT. HOBO JUNGLE

WILLIAM POWELL LOOKALIKE

What a poignant story.

HERB

Yeah, but all that's in the past.
Because this is America and in
America you're never finished as long
as you've got a brain in your head.
Because all a man really needs is an
idea.

BUM

What's your idea?

HERB

Pre-mixed peanut butter and jelly.

BUM

I think they've already got that.
And even if they don't -- eh.

Herb slumps, dejected.

INT. POWER PLANT - MAIN WORK AREA

Scene 3

A very long line of workers are lined up in their underwear
including HOMER, LENNY, CARL and CHARLIE. There is a sign
on the room that says "Annual Plant Physical - NO JOKES."

Scene 3 cont'd

They are holding a handful of official looking forms.
Lenny is completely nude, though we cannot see whether he's anatomically correct or not.

HOMER

Forgot there was a physical today,
huh?

LENNY

Yeah. (BEAT) Hey, Homer, can I
borrow your underwear?

HOMER

(THINKS) Nah.

INT. MEDICAL TESTING AREA

DOCTORS are watching and making notes on clipboards as employees are put through a battery of tests. We see employees on treadmills, stair-climbs, getting angiograms, x-rays and those magnetic resonance things, etc.

INT. TESTING AREA

We see a DOCTOR holding up a clipboard that says "SIMPSON". The doctor reads the monitor.

DOCTOR

(SHOCKED) This can't be right. This
man has 104% body fat!

He looks over in a immersion tank, and sees Homer eating a chicken leg.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Hey, no eating in the tank!

HOMER

Go to hell.

ON LENNY

As he exits a cubicle and walks over to Carl smirking.

Scene 3 cont'd

LENNY

I got even with those pushy doctors.

I took a whiz in this beaker.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Homer comes in. MARGE is getting dinner ready.

MARGE

How was your day at work, dear?

HOMER

The usual. Stand in front of this,
open that, pull down this, spread
apart that, turn head that way,
cough...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Scene 4

BART and LISA are playing. Lisa throws the dog dish like a
discus. Bart talks into a spoon as if it is a microphone.

BART

It's been an exciting day here at the
Living Room Olympics. Lisa Simpson
has just set a new world's record in
the dog dish discus. Many suspect
she is a man.

LISA

Bart!

BART

Moving on to our next event, the
always controversial "couch vault".
Representing the Soviet Union, Bartov
the Great.

Scene 4 cont'd

Bart picks up a broom stick and prepares to pole vault over the arms of the couch onto the cushions.

BART (CONT'D)

I do this for Mother Russia.

Bart vaults onto the couch -- it COLLAPSES into a heap. The arms fall off. Bart surveys the destroyed couch.

BART (CONT'D)

Next event, the cross-country race.

Bart starts to run as Homer enters and sees the couch.

HOMER

(SOBS) Oh, my couch! The arms, the seat... the dream is over. All right, who did this?

BART

(INNOCENT) We were just sitting on the couch, chatting quietly, when we heard a creaking noise.

LISA

(INNOCENT) We leapt off just in time to watch it collapse.

Homer sadly looks at the couch.

HOMER

Well, why did this have to happen now, during primetime, when TV's brightest stars come out to shine!?

BART

What's the big deal? It was just a ratty old couch.

Scene 4 cont'd

HOMER

(DRAMATICALLY) Hold on there, son.

You see, this old grouch, he's mighty
proud of that ratty old couch.

(TURNS TO COUCH) So long, pal.

We've had a lot of great memories.

Homer pats the couch affectionately.

DREAM DISSOLVE
TO:

Scene 5

HOMER'S MEMORIES

of sitting on the couch watching TV. He gets fatter and
balder as the years pass.

WOMAN (ON TV)

"That's right, I shot J.R."

HOMER

(GASPS)

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

"The Memphis Showboats make USFL
history by defeating the Oakland
Invaders 57 to 10."

HOMER

Woo-hoo!

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

We see Bart, Lisa and Marge holding hands with people o.s.
Homer looks at TV.

Scene 5 cont'd

KENT BROCKMAN (V.O.)

"Except for huge gaps in the Western states, Hands Across America was a complete success."

BART/LISA/MARGE

(SINGING) "Hands across America /
Hands across this land I love /
United we stand, divided we fall..."

Homer wipes a tear from his eye.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

We see Homer watching an NBC anchorman with a speech impediment.

NBC ANCHORMAN (V.O. ON TV)

"I never thought I'd see it. They're dancing on the Berlin Wall. These lithe and lively lovers of liberation..."

HOMER

Boring.

Homer switches the channel.

JITTERY PRIVATE (V.O.)

Sorry I ruined your date Sergeant Carter.

ANGRY SERGEANT (V.O.)

Pyle!

Homer CHUCKLES appreciatively.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

THE PRESENT

Scene 5 cont'd

Homer looks sadly at the couch.

HOMER

Well friend, you're going back where
you came from. The curb in front of
Flanders' house.

INT. POWER PLANT

Scene 6

Smithers is looking through a microscope as Burns
approaches.

SMITHERS

Sir, I'm afraid Homer Simpson may be
sterile.

BURNS

Who?

SMITHERS

One of your cabbage heads from Sector
7-G. Take a look at this sperm
sample from his recent physical.

BURNS' POV THROUGH MICROSCOPE

It's blurry at first, then begins to focus. We see three
sperm, all looking somewhat like Homer, banging heads and
falling to the bottom of the slide. One of the sperms has
three eyes.

SMITHERS (V.O.)

Now, compare this with a normal sperm
sample.

A new slide replaces the old one. It has numerous sperms
which have glasses and look like Smithers. They swim in a
very orderly fashion.

Scene 6 cont'd

SMITHERS (V.O.)

I'm afraid radiation from the plant
may be responsible. He could sue us
for millions.

BACK TO SCENE

BURNS

Call my lawyers!

INT. PLANT - HOMER'S WORK STATION - NEXT MORNING

Homer comes in, KNOCKS OVER something radioactive, steps in a bucket of something radioactive, falls against an instrument panel that lets out a bunch of SPARKS and dims the lights in the plant, then sits down in his chair. He puts his glowing feet up on the console and begins eating a contaminated sandwich.

INT. BURNS' OFFICE

Burns is pacing and glaring at his assembled legal staff.
(THE ONES FROM "BART GETS HIT BY A CAR.")

BURNS

Before you begin, let me make one
thing clear to you. I want your
legal advice. I even pay for it.
But to me you're all vipers. You
live on personal injury. You live on
divorces. You live on pain and
misery...(GETS HOLD OF HIMSELF)...but
I'm rambling. Does anyone want any
coffee?

LAWYER

I'll have some coffee.

Burns pours some coffee.

Scene 6 cont'd

BURNS

Want it black, don't you? Black like
your heart! It's so hard for me to
listen to you, I hate you all so
much...I'm sorry. It's my problem.
I'll deal with it. Please continue.

LAWYER

If you offer Mr. Simpson a token
sum -- say, a couple thou -- he'll be
so dazzled, he'll sign anything you
shove under his nose.

BURNS

(SNEERING) Brilliant. A cash
settlement. I could have figured
that out, you button-down maggot.

LAWYER

Do you have any cream?

BURNS

Oh yes, of course. Where are my
manners?

INT. PARK - DAY

Scene 7

Herb is lying on a bench, trying to think of a money-making
idea.

Scene 7 cont'd

HERB

Let's see, I need an idea... idea,
idea... (PANICS) I can't think of
one! I've lost the knack! What's
the matter with me -- I used to have
hundreds of ideas! I used to be
hungry. Wait a minute. I'm still
hungry. What I used to be is well-
fed.

From the next bench we hear a BABY CRYING. Herb looks
over, interested.

MOTHER

What do you want? I just changed
your diaper. Are you hungry? Are
you cold? Do you want to go home?

HERB

Lady, you just gave me the idea of a
lifetime. How do I thank you?

MOTHER

(SCARED) Please don't hurt me.

HERB

Consider it done.

INT. PLANT - HOMER'S WORK STATION

Homer is gloomily flipping random switches on his control
panel on and off. Lenny and Carl walk out.

LENNY

I heard about the couch.

Scene 7 cont'd

CARL

(PATS ON SHOULDER) You going to be
okay?

HOMER

(TOUCHING CARL'S HAND) Yeah. You
know, my life just can't get any

~~WORSE.~~

There is a long pause, as if someone has missed their cue.
Homer, Carl, and Lenny look at each other, then up at the
~~camera.~~

HOMER (CONT'D)

That's right. There's no way my life
could possibly get any worse.

There is another long beat. Finally, Smithers' voice comes
over the P.A.

SMITHERS (V.O.)

(OVER P.A.) Simpson! Report to Mr.
Burns' office at once!

~~HOMER~~

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

INT. BURNS' OFFICE

Scene 8

The lawyers are present. Homer enters.

BURNS

(ASIDE TO SMITHERS) Is this the one
with the cooked cojones?

Smithers nods.

Scene 8 cont'd

BURNS

Ah, Simpson, you big virile son-of-a-gun. Tell me, how many children do you have?

HOMER

Three.

BURNS

(HORRIFIED) Oh, that's a lot. Why, I bet you'd sooner sit on an arrow than have another.

HOMER

You ain't lyin'. (SUSPICIOUS) Wait a minute. What's this all about?

BURNS

Just a little friendly persiflage. Say, how would you like a check for two-thousand dollars?

HOMER

Would I! (SUSPICIOUS) Wait a minute. What do I have to do?

BURNS

Just sign this form. Press hard, you're making twelve copies.

Scene 8 cont'd

HOMER

Woo-hoo! (SUSPICIOUS) Wait a minute. I'm not signing anything until I read it or somebody gives me the gist of it.

BURNS

(DISGUSTED NOISE) Well, it just explains that you've won -- yeah, that's it -- you've won the first annual... Montgomery Burns... Award for... Outstanding Achievement in... the field of... uh, Excellence!

HOMER

Wow. The Burnsy! The most prestigious award of them all.

Homer starts to sign the forms, but stops.

HOMER

But don't I get some kind of trophy?
At a big award ceremony?

Burns looks at his lawyers. They nod.

Scene 9

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - ESTABLISHING

We see searchlights and a marquee which reads: "FIRST ANNUAL MONTGOMERY BURNS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF EXCELLENCE."

INT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - CONTINUOUS

A gala black-tie awards ceremony is in progress. On stage is a giant award, a la the Oscars. The place is packed and a production number is finishing.

Scene 9 cont'd

SINGERS

(SINGING) "It's the first annual
Montgomery Burns Award for --

~~NEW~~ SINGERS

(SINGING) Outstanding Achievement
In --

FEMALE SINGERS

(SINGING) The Field of --

SINGERS

(SINGING) Excellence!"

The SINGERS run off. Burns comes out in a tuxedo,
~~CLAPPING.~~

BURNS

That was Bonita De Wolf & and the
Springfield Nuclear Plant Soft Shoe
Society. Now it would be customary
for Homer's boss to give him this
award, but Marge declined.

The audience LAUGHS.

BURNS (CONT'D)

You were right, Smithers. They laugh
spontaneously and in unison.

INT. AUDITORIUM - PRESIDENTIAL BOX

Scene 10

The Simpsons sit, looking like the Reagans at a Kennedy
Center tribute. Homer LAUGHS, SLAPPING his knee. Marge
smiles like Nancy Reagan.

LISA

This award is the biggest farce I
ever saw.

Scene 10 cont'd

BART

What about the Grammys?

LISA

Okay, the biggest farce I've ever
been to.

ON STAGE

BURNS

And now to present the award, here's
former heavyweight champion, Big
George Foreman.

GEORGE FOREMAN comes through the curtain.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(A LA BOB HOPE) George, I heard they
stopped your last fight on a TKO.

GEORGE FOREMAN

That's right. The Kitchen Opened.

~~MPX: AUDIENCE LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.~~

BURNS

Well, we're here tonight to present
an award to a fat, bald man.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Why Mr. Burns, I'm honored.

~~INT. AUDITORIUM - PRESIDENTIAL BOX - CONTINUOUS~~

We see Homer LAUGHING and Marge smiling in the exact same
shot we saw earlier.

ON STAGE

Scene 10 cont'd

BURNS

No, no. We're here to present the
award to Homer Simpson.

GEORGE FOREMAN

I think I fought him once.

BURNS

Oh no. Homer's no fighter.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Then I'm sure I fought him.

SFX: AUDIENCE LAUGHTER

BURNS

Oh, I give up. The envelope please.

A WOMAN in an evening gown hands George Foreman the
envelope.

GEORGE FOREMAN

And now, the winner of the First
Annual Montgomery Burns Award For
Outstanding Achievement in the Field
of Excellence.

ON HOMER - IN AUDIENCE

He crosses his fingers.

HOMER

Please please please please please...

LISA

Dad, you know you won.

HOMER

Don't jinx it!

ON STAGE

Scene 10 cont'd

GEORGE FOREMAN

(READING ENVELOPE) Homer Simpson!

Homer looks ecstatic. Flash bulbs flash.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

Scene 11

HOMER'S PICTURE IN THE PAPER

The picture is moving up and down slightly as if it is covering a sleeping man's face. PULL OUT TO REVEAL:

EXT. TRAIN YARD

Several bums stand around a trashcan with a fire in it. One bum is sleeping with the Springfield Shopper that has Homer's picture on it over his face. Herb is nearby.

HERB

I'm telling you, all a man needs is
an idea. And I've got an idea.

BUM #2

Then how come you're still a bum?

HERB

All right. I've amended my premise.
A man needs two things, an idea and
financial backing. (BEAT) Hello,
what's this?

Herb sees the paper, does a double-take, then snatches the paper away and begins reading it.

Scene 11 cont'd

HERB (CONT'D)

(READING) "Local man, Homer Simpson,
receives award and \$2,000 check."

Hmmm... (TO BUM) Any of you guys
know which freight goes to
Springfield?

BUM #2

Springfield Illinois?

HERB

No.

BUM #2

Springfield Massachusetts?

HERB

Uh-uh.

BUM #2

Springfield --

The name of the state is cut off by a LOUD TRAIN WHISTLE.

HERB

That's the one.

The bum points to a train that's PULLING AWAY.

ON HERB

He runs alongside the freight and jumps on as it picks up
speed and RACES OUT of sight.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Scene 12

FADK IN!

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Homer is sitting at the bar in his tux. In front of him is his award. Next to him is George Foreman and Barney.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Keep those pickled eggs comin', Moe.

MOE

You cleaned me out big George.

There is a pickled-egg on the bar with a big bite taken out of it.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Hey Homer, are you gonna finish that?

HOMER

Nah, you go ahead.

MOE

What's the matter Homer? If anyone should be depressed it's me.

(BITTERLY) Nary a mention in your acceptance speech.

HOMER

(SADLY) I miss my couch.

GEORGE FOREMAN

I know how you feel. You lost a couch. I lost a heavyweight championship.

Scene 12 cont'd

HOMER

Pfft! Heavyweight championship.
There's like three of those. That
couch was one of a kind.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Homer, I know it's tough now. But
one day you'll be walking down the
street and you'll see a piece of
furniture that you can love just as
much.

BARNEY

Hey, Foreman, shut up!

GEORGE FOREMAN

Barney, you've been riding me all
night.

BARNEY

Oh yeah? Care to step outside?

He makes a fist.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Let's do it.

They step outside. We hear a short violent fight. Barney
walks back in dusting his hands. He shakes fist at Moe.

BARNEY

(MENACINGLY) Now how about one on
credit, Moe?

MOE

No.

Scene 12 cont'd

BARNEY

(MOANS)

HOMER

(FINISHING BEER) Moe, I think I'm
gonna take a walk.

He exits the bar, stepping over George Foreman, who lies on the ground.

GEORGE FOREMAN

Never underestimate an opponent.

(SADLY) Now Barney's the WBL
champion.

Homer walks past a closed furniture store. He looks in the display window and GASPS.

HOMER'S POV

He is looking at a vibrating chair. A mannequin sits in it vibrating.

HOMER

Wow. The Spine Melter 2000.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

Scene 13

INT. FURNITURE STORE - THE NEXT DAY

Homer sits in the vibrating chair. The store is now open and the rest of the Simpsons look on.

HOMER

Give me full power.

SALESMAN

But sir...

HOMER

Dammit, I said full power!

Scene 13 cont'd

The salesman adjusts a knob on the chair. Homer starts
VIBRATING.

HOMER'S POV

The world starts shaking and blurring. Colors rush by him
a la "2001 A Space Odyssey."

CU HOMER

Homer has a blissful look a la Keir Dullea. **INTERCUT** scene
a couple of times.

LISA (V.O.)

Dad? Dad?

BACK TO SCENE

We see Homer has nearly slid off the chair. He looks
blissful. His head is **BANGING** on the foot of the chair.

HOMER

(**BEING VIBRATED**) I'll take it.

The salesman **SHUTS OFF** the chair.

MARGE

Homer, this chair is \$2,000. We
could buy a whole living room set for
that.

HOMER

Marge, there's an empty spot I've
always had inside me. I've tried to
fill it with family, religion,
community service. But those were
dead ends. I think this chair is the

ANSWER.

Scene 13 cont'd

MARGE

Homer, this money was a blessing. We can't just spend it on some creature comfort. We should do something to improve our lives.

BART

Hey, you gotta spend that do-re-mi. Because it can only go so fa.

MARGE

Where'd you get that?

BART

Sesame Street. Bert and Ernie sang it.

MARGE

They did not! (TO SALESMAN) We'll think about it.

HOMER

Okay, fine. Now excuse me while I kiss the sky.

Homer sits back on the chair and turns it on. He makes vibrating GURGLES.

EXT. FLANDERS' HOUSE

Scene 14

Herb is standing on the sidewalk in front of the Flanders' house. He looks at the slip of paper in his hand that has Homer's address on it. The street number is a little smudged. He looks at the number on the Flanders' house. After a moment's uncertainty he walks up and knocks on the door.

INT. FLANDERS' HOUSE

Flanders opens the door.

Scene 14 cont'd

FLANDERS

Yes?

HERB

(CONFUSED) Oh...uh...sorry, I must
have the wrong house.

FLANDERS

That's where you're wrong, friend.

Maude joins Ned at the door.

FLANDERS (CONT'D)

(TO MAUDE) Aren't we in luck?
Today's our tithe day and we have a
transient. Come in my friend. Let
us feed and bathe you.

Flanders leads Herb into the house.

HERB

Hey wait a minute...

FLANDERS

Now, now. As the Good Book says,
"Forget not to entertain strangers --
for thereby some have entertained
angels unaware."

Todd Flanders enters with an armload of wraps.

TODD

Dad, can I ancient the sores on his
feet?

FLANDERS

I think it's Mom's turn, son.

Scene 14 cont'd

TODD

No fair.

EXT. FLANDERS'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Herb comes out the front door. He's wearing one of Flanders' suits.

HERB

Thanks for the suit.

FLANDERS

Sure you can't spend the night?

Maude and I can sleep on card tables.

HERB

Let me tell you something, as a guy whose worn out shoes have walked every dirt road in this country. You people are freaks. And I mean that nicely.

TODD

(SINGS) "Onward Christian
soldiers..."

The rest of the family joins in.

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) "Marching as to war,
etc..."

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Scene 15

Homer is sitting in an uncomfortable chair, next to the broken couch. He overhears SINGING next door.

Scene 15 cont'd

HOMER

They're singing again. Lousy
neighbors. Wish I was deaf.

The doorbell RINGS. Homer goes to the door.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Herb stands on the front porch.

HERB

(TO SELF) What am I gonna say? This
is the guy who ruined me. But on the
other hand, he's family. So many
conflicting emotions. How to express
them...

Homer opens the door.

HOMER

Herb!

Herb punches Homer in the face.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Herb enters as Homer holds his jaw. Marge and the kids see
Herb and rush up to hug him.

BART & LISA

(JOYOUSLY) Unky Herb!

HERB

Bart... Lisa. I'm so glad to see
you.

HOMER

(RUBBING JAW) You weren't so glad to
see me.

Scene 15 cont'd

HERB

I'm sorry, Homer. But I'm still mad at you. Every word you say just makes me want to punch you in the face.

HOMER

Yeah, I get that a lot. But you're the first one who ever followed up on it.

Marge enters.

MARGE

Herb! How've you been?

HERB

Things have been better. But I'll be on top again soon enough. (LOOKING AROUND) So this is your house, eh?

HOMER

Yeah! Let me give you the grand tour. This is one of our many light switches. It functions in both the on and off mode.

Homer flicks the switch on and off.

MARGE

Homer, he knows how to work a light switch.

Scene 15 cont'd

HOMER

Oh, yeah. Right. (MOVES TO SECOND SWITCH) I don't know what this switch does.

Homer flicks the switch on and off.

EXT. SIMPSONS HOUSE - ROOF

Scene 16

We see colored lights that says "MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY 1985" flashing on and off.

INT. SIMPSONS HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

The family is giving Herb a tour of the house. Homer points to Lisa's room.

HOMER

We just store stuff in there.

LISA

Dad!

MARGE

That's Lisa's room, Homer.

HOMER

Oh. (GROUSING) I don't get my own room. I have to share a room with Marge.

Homer stops by a large closet that has a broken desk and a single book in it. Homer KNOCKS aside a few cobwebs.

HOMER (CONT'D)

This is my office.

HERB

Get a lot of work done in there?

Scene 16 cont'd

HOMER

Actually it's just a tax thing.

(HUGE STAGE WHISPER) I'm cheating
the government.

Homer begins winking furiously at Herb.

HERB

I understand.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Herb and the Simpsons are eating dinner.

HERE

This is really great, Marge.

MARGE

Why thank you, Herb.

HERE

I haven't had food this good
since...well, actually your next door
neighbor makes an excellent shrimp
scampi...

MARGE

(A LITTLE TIGHTLY) Maude Flanders is
a very good cook.

HERE

Lisa, you're awfully quiet tonight.

LISA

You never wrote, you didn't call --

Scene 16 cont'd

LISA

You never wrote, you didn't call --
I wrote to you. In care of general
delivery, in Cleveland, St. Louis,
New York -- every city that's a
magnet for broken men.

HERB

Hey if I wrote to you what was I
supposed to say? "Dear Lisa,
last night I nearly froze to death
thanks to your Pop?"

LISA

I see your point.

BART

Unky Herb, what advice would you give
to a boy who will most likely become
a bum like yourself?

HERB

Well, let's see... don't bury your
stuff. You might forget where it is.
And no matter how hungry you get,
don't eat your clothes.

Scene 17

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MAGGIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Herb is putting Maggie to sleep. He SINGS the Powell
Motors Song.

Scene 17 cont'd

HERB

(SINGS SOFTLY) "Whether you're
driving near or far / Powell makes a
pow-pow-powerful car!" I wrote that,
Maggie.

Herb tucks her in.

HERB (CONT'D)

I'm gonna let you in on a little
secret, Maggie. You're gonna make me
rich again. (BABY TALK) Yes-oo are!
Yes-oo are!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The Simpsons and Herb are on the floor playing Monopoly.
Herb ROLLS the dice, moves his piece.

~~HERB~~

1,2,3...Ventnor Avenue.

LISA

And while on Ventnor Avenue you'll be
staying at the fabulous Hotel Lisa.
A valet will be around shortly to
park your thimble. Of course, there
is the unpleasant matter of the bill.

HERB

Get to the point.

LISA

(MERCILESS) Eleven hundred and fifty
bones.

Herb hands her all his money.

Scene 17 cont'd

HOMER

That's all I got.

HOMER

(AMUSED) Broke again, eh Herb? Just like in real life. Heh heh. I guess you're just not much of a businessman.

HERB

Homer, I haven't exactly forgiven you yet. Maybe we should play a different game.

HOMER

Okay.

Homer looks through a nearby stack of games.

HOMER (CONT'D)

We've got Sorry, Aggravation...ooh Mousetrap!

BART

Hey, let's play with some real money. We've got to spend Homer's two grand before it ends up in someone's college fund.

HOMER

(LYING) Wait Marge, didn't you want that vibrating chair?

MARGE

That was your idea!

Scene 17 cont'd

HOMER

Well, I don't care who thought of it,
I think it's brilliant.

LIEK

Well, I think we should invest in a
set of the great books of Western
Civilization. Any time we want, we
can dip into "Paradise Regained",
"Martin Chuzzlewit," or Herman
Melville's twin classics "Omoo" and
"Typee".

BART

I think we should get a machine gun.
We could use it to hunt game, spell
out things, and ring in the new year!

MARGE

Well, I really think we need to
replace the washer and dryer.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Scene 18

We see a washer and dryer VIBRATING all over the room. The
cat looks terrified he'll be caught in their path.

~~BACK TO SCENE~~

HERB

How would you like to spend 2,000
dollars to give a broken man a second
chance?

HOMER

Nah.

Scene 18 cont'd

MARGE

Herb, what're you talking about?

HERB

Up-up-up-up. Not here. Come on into the dining room. I'll want to give you a twenty-minute presentation that will change the world.

HOMER

(WHINY) Twenty minutes?!

HERB

Okay, okay. I'll make it ten.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM

The family is seated around the dining room table looking expectant.

HERB

Okay. Now, before I tell you about my idea, I'd like to show you this.

Herb puts a drinking bird toy on the table. Homer is immediately delighted and amazed.

HOMER

(POINTING) It's drinking the water!

HERB

Now this is an example of how one little idea -- carefully marketed...

HOMER

That's the greatest invention in the world! You'll make a million dollars!

Scene 18 cont

HERB

(PATIENTLY) No, Homer. That invention is out already. I'm just using it as an example.

HOMER

(CHUCKLES) It's going back for more!

Herb picks up the bird and puts it down next to the chair.

HOMER

(DISAPPOINTED SOUND)

HERB

Homer, this is my invention.

Herb holds up a set of blueprints.

HERB (CONT'D)

Now, of course, with these blueprints you'll have to use your imagination.

HOMER'S IMAGINATION

Scene 19

The lines on the blueprints move around awkwardly, bang into each other, then finally form the drinking bird.

~~BACK TO SCENE~~

LISA

It looks like some kind of receiver.

Scene 19 cont'd

HERB

It's a baby translator. It measures the pitch, the frequency, and the urgency of a baby's cries. Then it tells whoever's around -- in plain English -- exactly what the baby is trying to say. Everything from "Change me" to "Turn off that damn Raffi record."

MARGE

(IMPRESSED) That's a very clever idea!

HERB

All I need is a couple thousand dollars to build a prototype. You'll have your money back in thirty days. I swear.

HOMER

Herb, listen to me. I've got three kids. The best part about a baby is you can't understand what they're saying.

HERB

All right, Homer, I didn't want to play my trump card, but does the word "restitution" mean nothing to you?

Scene 19 cont'd

HOMER

No, not really. I could look it up.

HERB

(EXASPERATED) Fine. I've said my piece. I'll just leave the room and let you decide.

Herb exits.

Scene 20

BART

Dad, you give me my machine gun and I can have your money back in a couple of hours. Don't ask how.

LISA

Bart, we owe a debt to Unky Herb. He took us into his home and Dad destroyed him.

HOMER

You know, I'm getting pretty sick of hearing about that. So I ruin one lousy Fortune 500 company. Big deal. What about the other 499 I didn't ruin? Can we talk about those?

MARGE

I move we put it to a vote.

LISA

Second. All in favor of loaning Unky Herb the two-thousand dollars say "Aye".

Scene 20 cont'd

MARGE/LISA

Aye!

HOMER

Nay! (TO BART) Boy, it's all up to you. I urge you to vote "No" on Proposition Save Unky Herb.

MARGE

Bart, I don't care how you vote as long as you vote nicely.

BART

Well, let's see...on the one hand, there's my father, who gave me life, and on the other hand, there's Unky Herb, who tried to buy my affection, and did, several times over...on the other hand, there's my dad who's got that "Why you little" expression on his face...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

An impatient Herb stands pacing at the kitchen door. Finally, he opens it and sees Homer strangling Bart.

BART

(CHOKING) Congratulations, Unky Herb!

He gives Herb a thumbs up.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

Scene 21

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

MONTAGE:

Herb is developing his baby translator.

A) INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MAGGIE'S ROOM - DAY

OPEN ON an oscilloscope labelled, "Oscilloscopes 4 Less". We see a wave pattern and hear a **BABY FUSSING**. PULL BACK to see Maggie is **WHINING** with Herb looking on and holding a clipboard.

HERB

Now, let's see... What could you be trying to say? (CHECKING MAGGIE'S DIAPER) Nothing downstairs... You just took a nap...

Maggie starts **SUCKING** his nose.

HERB (CONT'D)

(HOLDING NOSE) "I want to suck your nose."

He writes on his clipboard.

B) CLOSE UP - HERB - A LITTLE LATER

Herb is wearing a monkey mask.

HERB

Ooga booga! Ooga booga!

Maggie makes a **BABY NOISE**.

HERB (CONT'D)

(WRITING ON CLIPBOARD) "I'm scared."

C) INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Herb and Maggie are on the floor. Bart watches them from the couch. Maggie makes a **NOISE**.

Scene 21 cont'd

HERB

Hmm... the amplitude of the sine wave
is insufficient for "Burp Me", and
this saw-tooth formation indicates a
"Blanket" related sentiment...

SFX: BODY FALLING

Herb turns to see Maggie sprawled on the floor, **SNORING**.

HERB (CONT'D)

Oh. "I'm tired."

Herb picks her up.

HERB (CONT'D)

(YAWNS) So am I.

BART

Unky Herb, you're killing yourself.

HERB

Well, the Springfield Baby Expo is
coming up and...

BART

You just don't get it, do you. Hard
work is for the other guy. Everyday
Uncle Sugar is handing out billions
of dollars to any deadbeat with a sob
story. (WINKS) There ain't no lid
on that cookie jar.

HERB

Bart, where did you pick that up?

Scene 21 cont'd

BART

Sesame Street. (OFF HERB'S LOOK)

Well, you gotta read between the
lines.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Scene 22

The family is gathered around to see Herb's prototype,
which is under a cloth. Herb stands in his suit. Maggie
is dressed up in a cute baby outfit.

HERB

(EXASPERATED NOISE) Now, I bet
you're all wondering what lies under
this sheet.

BART

Not really. We peeked inside while
you were in the john.

HERB

Oh. Well, here it is again. My
"Baby Translator!"

Herb unveils a clumsy-looking device composed of wires and
lights with a speaker on one side. The Simpsons stare at
it for a beat.

MARGE

(TOO BIG) Ooh!

HERB

Marge, you don't have to humor me.

MARGE

Well, it's pretty ingrained.

HERB

What do you think, Homer?

Scene 22 cont'd

HOMER

Herb, people are afraid of new things. You should have taken an existing product and put a clock in it, or something.

Maggie makes a NOISE.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) Lavish attention on me and entertain me.

MARGE

Maggie, you talked!

HERB

You see! It tells you exactly what's on the baby's mind. Takes the guess work out of parenting.

LISA

(COVERING FACE) Maggie! Maggie!

Maggie makes a NOISE.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) Where did you go?

Lisa uncovers her face.

LISA

Peek-a-boo!

Maggie LAUGHS.

Scene 22 cont

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) Oh, there
you are. Very amusing.

MARGE

Oh Herb, every mother in the country
is going to want one of these.

HERB

Uh huh, uh huh. Hey Bart, what do
you say about hard work now?

BART

You've taught me a valuable lesson,
Unky Herb. This country needs guys
like you to foot the bill for guys
like me.

Maggie makes a NOISE.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) I have
soiled myself. How embarrassing.

Scene 23

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - DAY

A banner outside reads, "Today, Baby Expo. Tu-Fr, Twin
Convention. NO TRIPLETS!"

INT. BABY EXPO

CAMERA PANS through the hall which is packed with booths
displaying new kinds of baby toys and baby related items.
We can see revolving platforms with BABY MODELS pointing
unsteadily at new products and falling over as the platform
revolves.

Scene 23 cont'd

The CAMERA PANS past several booths, including a booth that has a large sign that says "Dog-In-A-Ball". In front of the booth is a large plastic ball with a real full size dog in it. A BABY is pushing at the ball. The dog inside is baffled. A banner says "Babies Love To Play With Dog-In-A-Ball".

The CAMERA PAUSES when it gets to PROFESSOR FRINK. He is flying a BABY around in a model airplane.

PROFESSOR FRINK

This radio controlled, gas-powered
plane gives junior the opportunity to
see if he's got "The Right Stuff."
He can execute the barrel roll...
loop-de-loop... then bring it in for
the perfect landing.

The Baby Plane executes these stunts, then flies out a window.

PROFESSOR FRINK (CONT'D)

Oh dear. My brother's going to kill

■■■■■

ON HERB

He is mobbed by excited PARENTS and their BABIES. One BABY CRIES.

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) All I want
to eat is candy!

MOM

(HAPPILY) Then that's all you'll
get.

A BABY passes by on a baby leash.

Scene 23 cont'd

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) This leash
demeans us both.

WOMAN

I'll take two.

MAN

I'll take a dozen!

The CROWD converges on Herb excitedly CHATTERING.

HERB

Please, please. Don't push.

The crowd makes DEJECTED NOISES and starts to leave.

HERB (CONT'D)

All right, all right. You can push a
little.

The crowd makes EXCITED NOISES and converges on him again.
Herb holds up two handfuls of money.

HERB (CONT'D)

I'm rich again! USA! USA! USA!

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

CLOSE UP - MAGAZINE COVER

The cover of the latest Forbes Magazine spins out. It has
Herb holding his money, standing next to his translator
with Maggie on it. The caption reads: "The Return of
Blunder Boy". PULL BACK to see Herb holding the magazine.

HERB

(GROWLS)

He throws the magazine away.

Scene 24

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

Herb, wearing a nice suit, is saying good-bye to the family. Herb carries a little bag. He hands Homer a check.

HERB

Homer, here is a check for two-thousand dollars. But I also wanted to give you each a little something for believing in me. (HANDS LISA BOOK) Lisa, this is the first volume of the Great Books of Western Civilization. You'll receive a new one every month. From "Beowulf" to "Less Than Zero."

LISA

Wow! Thank you, Unky Herb! I'll write to you every day.

HERE

You don't have to. I'm giving your father my number. If you guys ever need any help, just give me a call.

HOMER

You mean, like if the toilet backs up?

Herb stares at Homer for a beat.

HERE

Lisa, you take the card.

Herb hands Lisa his business card.

Scene 24 cont'd

HERB (CONT'D)

Now Bart, I know you're too young for the machine gun you wanted. But I'm going to give you something that'll make sure when you're old enough you can still buy one. A membership in the National Rifle Association.

BART

Wow! The NRA. You know, they visited my school five times this year. Will I be able to get teflon-coated armored piercing bullets, too?

HERB

It's in the Constitution, son.

He turns to Maggie.

HERB (CONT'D)

Maggie, who brought me my fortune I'll give you anything you want in this world.

Maggie makes a NOISE.

HOMER

(CROSSING FINGERS) New car new car new car!

HERB'S VOICE

(THROUGH BABY TRANSLATOR) I want what the dog's eating.

Scene 24 cont'd

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

HERB

(TO MAGGIE) I'll fix you up nice.

Now Marge...

MARGE

Herb, I appreciate your generosity,
but I don't need any gift from you.

HERB

You're too late, Marge. I got you a
new washer and dryer. They're
already downstairs and I sold the old
ones for fifty bucks.

Herb hands Marge the money.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Scene 25

The old washer and dryer are racing towards a finish line
taped on the floor. The numbers "55" and "17" are painted
on them.

BARNEY

Come on washer!

The dryer peels off and goes in the wrong direction. The
washer crosses the finish line. The BARFLIES CHEER.

MOE

(HITS DRYER) Oh, you stupid dryer!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Homer looks sad.

HOMER

Herb, I don't think there's a
vibrating chair in that bag for me.

Scene 25 cont'd

HERB

Homer, walk me to my car.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Homer walks Herb to his car.

HOMER

What do I get? What do I get? It's
not another punch in the face is it?
Because if it is, I don't want it.

HERB

This is what you get, Homer. I
forgive you. You can call me brother
and I can do the same.

HOMER

That's it?

HERB

That's it.

HOMER

Okay, I see your point.

HERB

Gimme a hug.

HOMER

All right...but I've never really
hugged a man before.

They hug tentatively. A delivery truck pulls in the
driveway.

HERB

By the way, I did buy you the chair.

Scene 25 cont'd

HOMER

Thank you, brother!

Homer enthusiastically kisses Herb several times.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON - LIVING ROOM - A FEW WEEKS LATER

The Simpsons have a new couch that looks like their old one. Homer sits blissfully in his vibrating chair.

CLOSE UP - HOMER'S SPERM

They're vibrating and happy. Credits vibrate over them.

FADE OUT.

THE END